

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3 and 5 as follows:

Q1
--3. (Amended) The pressure sensor according to claim 1, wherein said lead connects said terminal of said pressure-sensitive section to a wire which is provided on said base; and said pressure-sensitive section and said lead are covered by a resin.

Q2
5. (Amended) The pressure sensor as described in Claim 4, wherein said fluoroc elastomer which affixes said pressure-sensitive section and said base is harder after solidification than said fluoroc gel.--

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If any extension of time for this response is required, applicant requests that this be considered a petition therefore. Please charge the required Petition fee to Deposit Account No. 03-1240.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess to our Deposit Account No. 03-1240.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presented herein is respectfully requested. Claims 1-9 remain in this application.

In the Office Action dated November 6, 2002, the pending claims 1-9 of the current application were rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) or

rendered obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) by Nomura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,948,991) either alone or in combination with Shoji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,490,424). It is respectfully argued that the current invention, as recited in the amended claims, is neither anticipated nor made obvious by Nomura, either alone or in combination with other cited references. The applicant would like to point out the following distinctive features of the current invention:

- (a) A pressure-sensitive section is affixed to a base by a fluoric elastomer which has excellent chemical resistance, corrosion resistance, and heat resistance;
- (b) A sensor package which encloses the pressure-sensitive section is composed of a plurality of members which are affixed by the fluoric elastomer; and
- (c) The pressure-sensitive section and a lead are covered by a resin such as a fluoric gel, and the fluoric elastomer which affixes the pressure-sensitive section and the base is harder after solidification than the resin.

Neither Nomura et al. nor Shoji et al. describes the same materials of the resin as the current invention for affixing the pressure-sensitive section to the base, or affixing a plurality of members which constitute the pressure-sensitive section. It is noted that the Examiner recognizes that Nomura et al. does not disclose the feature that the pressure-sensitive section is affixed to the base by the fluoric elastomer. *See* Office Action, page 3, para. 5. The applicant respectfully argues that the material of the member denoted as reference numeral 17 of Shoji et al. is not the fluoric elastomer (contrary to Examiner's statement on page 3, para. 6), but a urethane resin or an epoxy resin. *See* Shoji et al., col. 7, line 65 - col. 8, line 2; and col. 8, lines 31-35. Moreover, in Shoji et

al., the resin, such as the urethane resin or epoxy resin, is employed in order to utilize its water resistant properties, and its chemical resistance, corrosion resistance, and heat resistance. *See* Shoji et al., col. 8, lines 31-35. The urethane resin and epoxy resin have relatively low chemical resistance, corrosion resistance and heat resistance in comparison with the fluoric elastomer. Therefore, based on the teachings of Shoji et al., there is no motivation to use the fluoric elastomer as the resin which affixes the pressure-sensitive section and the base, or for affixing the plurality of members of the pressure-sensitive section. Thus, neither Nomura et al. nor Shoji et al. describe or suggest the above-identified important features (a) and (b) of the present invention.

Furthermore, none of the cited references describes or suggests the feature that the fluoric elastomer that affixes the pressure-sensitive section and the base is harder after solidification than the resin that covers the pressure-sensitive section and the lead. Therefore, the above-identified feature (c) of the present invention is not described or suggested by Nomura et al. or Shoji et al.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in the amended claims, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited prior art references. Attached hereto is a marked-up version, captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made,**" showing changes made to the claims and specification by the current amendment. Entry of this amendment and an early favorable action on the merits are respectfully requested. Should any questions arise concerning this Amendment & Response, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney for the applicant.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 in an envelope addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231.

DATE: May 6, 2003

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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

3. (Amended) The [A] pressure sensor according to claim 1, wherein said lead [comprising: a base; a pressure-sensitive section which receives pressure and is mounted on said base; a pressure injection section which injects gas to be measured into said pressure-sensitive section; a lead which] connects said [a] terminal of said pressure-sensitive section to a wire which is [,] provided on said base [, and extracts a pressure detection signal]; and [a resin which covers] said pressure-sensitive section and said lead are covered by a resin.

5. (Amended) The pressure sensor as described in Claim 4, wherein said fluoric elastomer which affixes said pressure-sensitive section and said base [are affixed by a fluoric elastomer which] is harder after solidification than said fluoric gel.